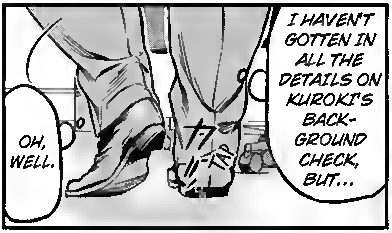
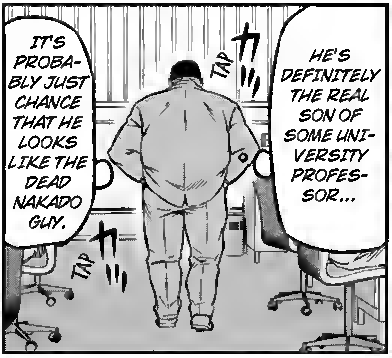
STORY: KIMIO YANAGISAWA
ART: YOUSUKE MORI
TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
YKS SERVICES LLC/SKY JAPAN, INC




HE'S DEFINITELY THE REAL SON OF SOME UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR...
TAP
IT'S PROBABLY JUST CHANCE THAT HE LOOKS LIKE THE DEAD NAKADO GUY.
TAP

MangaBox

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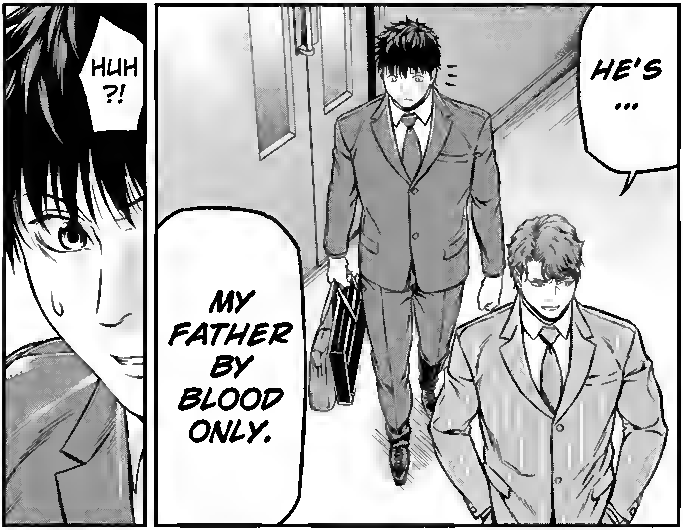


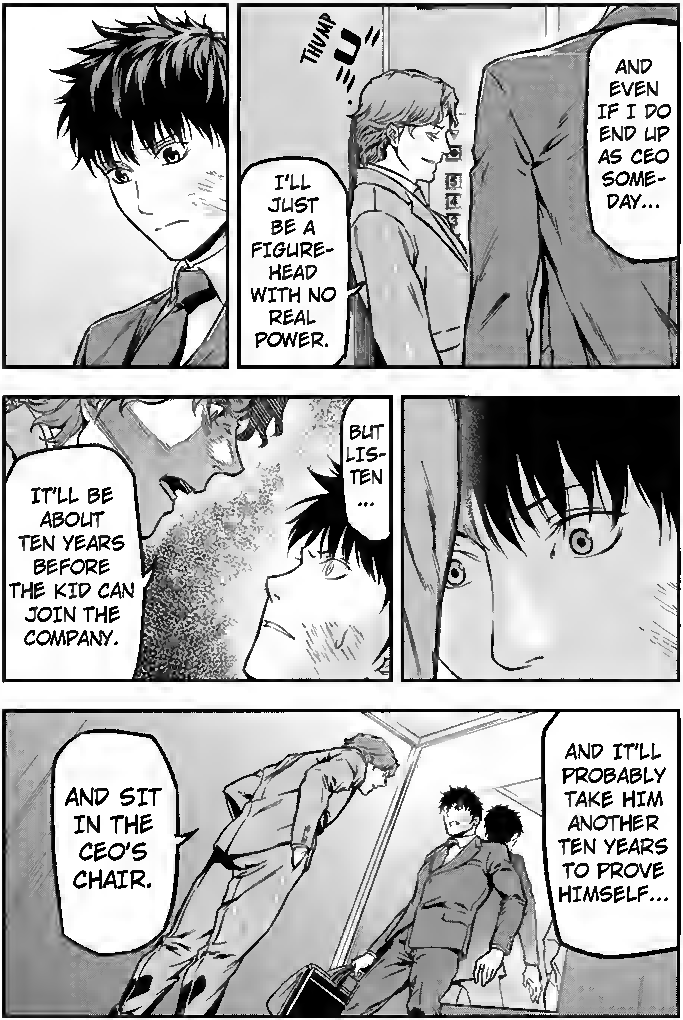
AND THEN... I WAS BORN.
IN THE END, WHEN SHE GOT PREGNANT, HE DIVORCED THE ACTRESS TO MARRY HER.
NO WAY ...
THE CEO THREW AWAY TWO FAMI-LIES?!
GRIND
BUT...
WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, THAT BASTARD THREW ME AND MY MOM AWAY...
THIS TIME, IN ORDER TO MARRY A HOSTESS FROM AKASAKA.

MOM TOOK ME AND WENT BACK TO HER PARENTS' HOME.
SHE THREW AWAY ALL HER FANCY CLOTHES AND MAKE-UP..
LEARNED TO DO ALL THE HOUSE CHORES SHE COULD NEVER GET USED TO AND RAISED ME...
UNTIL SHE DIED OF CANCER IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
RUMBLE
...
AND THEN IN THE SPRING I ENTERED UNIVER-SITY...

HE SHOWED UP...
!
HE DIDN'T ASK WHAT I WANTED ...
HE JUST SAID, "COME JOIN AKATSUKI PRO AND INHERIT FOR ME."
WHY ...?
AT THE TIME, HE ONLY HAD ONE DAUGHTER WITH HIS THIRD WOMAN.
IN OTHER WORDS, I WAS THE ONLY BOY OF ALL HIS KIDS.
AKATSUKI PRO IS HIS BELOVED CASTLE. HE BUILT IT IN A SINGLE GENERATION.
I THINK HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HAND IT TO SOMEONE WHO WASN'T A BLOOD RELATIVE.

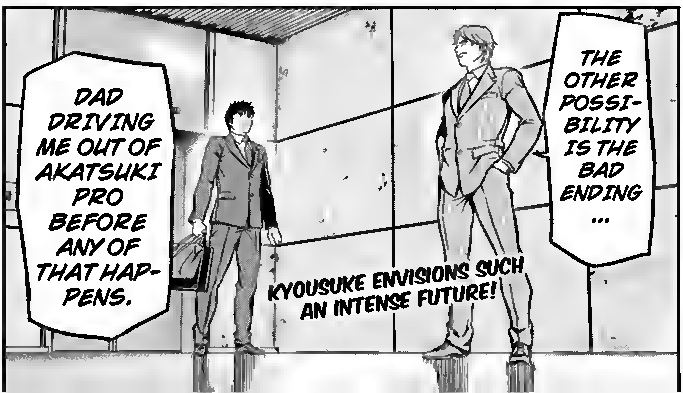
MOM ...
HATED HIM TO THE END FOR ABANDONING HER.
RUMBLE
SO I ACCEPTED.
...BUT STILL, BEING FIRST IN LINE FOR THE THRONE AT A FAMOUS ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY IS A PRETTY SWEET DEAL FOR ME
WOW, THAT'S ...
AFTER I GOT A JOB HERE
WHAT DO YOU THINK DAD'S THIRD WIFE PULLED?
AND BY THE WAY, KOUTA-ROU!

SHE DID IT. SHE HAD A BOY.
HE'S NOW A TEN-YEAR-OLD, HEALTHY LITTLE BRAT.
BRIL-LIANT, RIGHT?
HE'S GOT HIM-SELF A LEGIT HEIR.
NOW I'M JUST WARM-ING THAT KID'S SEAT...
UNTIL HE GROWS UP.


AND EVEN IF I DO END UP AS CEO SOME-DAY...
THUMP
I'LL JUST BE A FIGURE-HEAD WITH NO REAL POWER.
BUT LIS-TEN ...
IT'LL BE ABOUT TEN YEARS BEFORE THE KID CAN JOIN THE COMPANY.
AND IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE HIM ANOTHER TEN YEARS TO PROVE HIMSELF...
AND SIT IN THE CEO'S CHAIR.

1
2
3
I THINK AND DAD'LL STAY ... IN GOOD HEALTH FOR ABOUT TWENTY MORE YEARS.
SO MY FATE WILL BE DECIDED IN THAT TIME.
RUMBLE
THEN ALL COMPANY RIGHTS WOULD GO TO ME.
IDEALLY, MY DAD WOULD KICK THE BUCKET WHILE I'M IN THE CEO'S SEAT.
IF THAT HAPPENS, I CAN DO WHAT-EVER I WANT...

...EVEN CRUSH CANDI-DATES FOR MY SUCCES-SOR.
IF I HAVE A SON, I'LL WANT HIM TO TAKE OVER, ANYWAY.
EITHER WAY, DAD'S KID IS IN THE WAY.


THE OTHER POSSI-BILITY IS THE BAD ENDING ...
DAD DRIVING ME OUT OF AKATSUKI PRO BEFORE ANY OF THAT HAP-PENS.
KYOUSUKE ENVISIONS SUCH AN INTENSE FUTURE!